Philosophy 10
Introduction to Ethics
Study Guide for Exam #1
Summer 2006
Cabrillo College

1) What distinguishes Ethics from other philosophical areas such as metaphysics and epistemology?
2) What is the distinction between normative and descriptive ethics?
3) Distinguish between each of the following general types of ethical theories: deontological ethics, consequentialism, and virtue ethics. Discuss a specific example of each type of theory.
4) What is the principle of utility in Mill's Utilitarianism?
5) How does Mill's version of utilitarianism differ from Bentham's? How is Mill's theory a defense of utilitarianism against the charge that utilitarianism is a doctrine for swine?
6) What is Mill's account of "pleasure"?
7) What is Mill's method for determining which among competing pleasures have greater worth?
8) What type of beings are worthy of moral consideration for a utilitarian? How does this differ from Kantianism?
9) Distinguish between Kant's notions of a "noumenal" and a "phenomenal" self.
10) Why must moral principles be universal for Kant if they are to have normative weight?
11) What is the distinction between a hypothetical imperative and a categorical imperative?
12) What are Kant's two major formulations of the categorical imperative?
13) How is Kant's ethical theory derivative of his views on metaphysics and epistemology?
14) What is the role of "duty" in Kant's moral philosophy?
15) What is a maxim? What does it mean to "universalize" a maxim? What role does this play in Kant's ethical system?
16) For Kant, what is the only thing that is good without qualification?
17) What role does "autonomy" play in Kant's ethical system?
18) What is the role of an action's consequences for Kant? For Mill?
19) What features of an action are morally relevant for deontological theories? For consequentialist theories?
20) How does virtue ethics differ from both consequentialism and deontological ethics?
21) Aristotle gives a teleological account of mankind. What does this mean? What is the specific "telos" or "end" explained by Aristotle?
22) What does it mean to say that a virtue is a "golden mean" between two opposing vices? Give some specific examples.
23) What are the potential advantages that virtue ethics has over other moral theories?
24) What are the distinguishing characteristics of mankind for Aristotle?
25) In Confucianism, what does it mean to say that the self is "relational"?
26) For Confucius, what is the first and foremost role one plays in life?
27) What is the role of "ritual" for Confucius?
28) What is the Daoist view of desire?
29) In Daoism, what impact does society have on our authentic nature and natural preferences?
30) What is the meaning of the Buddhist term "dependent arising?"
31) What are the central questions in the metaphysics of "personal identity"?

32) What role is played by memory in Locke's account of personal identity?
33) Describe Nietzsche's streak of individualism. What is his critique of culture?
34) What is the difference for Nietzsche between the following two distinctions: good/bad and good/evil?
35) How does the creation of morality follow from Nietzsche's account of noble/slave? What role does ressentiment play?
36) Why is Nietzsche critical of universal morality?
37) What is the "original fallacy"? Why have some philosophers held that Nietzsche committed this fallacy in his critique of morality?
38) Explain Sartre's claim that "existence precedes essence" for humans.
39) What is Sartre's account of human freedom?
40) What is Sartre's account of "bad faith"?
41) Explain Sartre's claim that in exercising human freedom, man not only chooses for himself but for all mankind. How does this relate to "angst"?